

(iii) Develop adequate small business competition on all appropriate procurements;

(10) Taking action to assure that unnecessary qualifications, restrictive specifications, or other features (such as inadequate procurement lead time) of the programming or procurement process, which may prevent small business participation in the competitive process, are modified to permit such participation where an adequate product or service can be obtained;

(11) Recommending that portions of large planned procurements or suitable components of end items or services be purchased separately so small firms may compete;

(12) On proposed non-competitive procurements, recommending to the contracting officer that the procurement be made competitive when, in the opinion of SDB, there are small business or minority business enterprises believed competent to furnish the required goods or services, and supplying the contracting officer a list of such firms;

(13) Assisting small business concerns with individual problems;

(14) Promoting increased awareness by the technical staff of the availability of small business firms;

(15) Making available to GSA copies of solicitations when so requested;

(16) Counseling non-responsive or non-responsible small business bidders/offerors to help them participate more effectively in future solicitations; and

(17) Examining bidders lists to make certain small business firms are appropriately identified and adequately represented for both negotiated and advertised procurements.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 21058, June 4, 1987; 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40468, July 29, 1997]

719.271-3 USAID contracting officers.

With respect to procurement activities within their jurisdiction, contracting officers are responsible for:

(a) Being thoroughly familiar with part 19 of the FAR and this section dealing with the small business program;

(b) Screening abstracts of bids and other award data to determine set-aside potential for future procurements;

(c) Assuring that small business concerns and minority business enterprises are appropriately identified on source lists and abstracts of bids or proposals by an "S" and "M", respectively, or other appropriate symbol;

(d) Reviewing types and classes of items and services to determine where small business set-asides can be applied;

(e) Recommending that portions of large planned procurements of suitable components of end items or services be purchased separately so small firms may compete;

(f) Making a unilateral determination for total or partial small business set-asides in accordance with Subpart 19.5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations;

(g) Submitting proposed procurement actions for USAID/Washington contracts to SDB for screening (see 719.271-6);

(h) Taking action to assure that unnecessary qualifications, restrictive specifications or other features (such as inadequate procurement lead time) of the programming or procurement process which may prevent small business participation in the competitive process are modified to permit such participation where an adequate product or service can be obtained;

(i) Prior to rendering a final decision on a proposed non-competitive procurement action, and as part of his/her findings and determinations, the contracting officer shall consider the recommendations, if any, of SDB together with the latter's list of additional sources;

(j) As appropriate, referring small business concerns, including small minority business enterprises, to SDB for information and advice;

(k) Promoting increased awareness by the technical staff of the availability of small business concerns;

(l) Making available to SDB copies of solicitations when requested;

(m) Assisting SDB in counseling non-responsive or non-responsible small business bidders/offerors to help them to participate more effectively in future solicitations; and

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(n) Including the Small Business and Minority Business Enterprises Subcontracting Program clauses in all contracts where required by part 19 of the FAR.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40468, July 29, 1997]

719.271-4 Heads of contracting activities.

In order for the agency small business program to be effective, the active support of top management is required. The heads of the contracting activities shall be responsible for:

(a) Rendering decisions in cases resulting from non-acceptances by their contracting officers of set-aside recommendations made by SDB;

(b) Consulting with SDB in establishing small business and minority business enterprise award goals, where practicable and desirable; and

(c) Advising cognizant technical officers of their responsibilities as set forth in 719.271-5.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996]

719.271-5 Cognizant technical officers.

Since the procurement process starts with the establishment of a requirement, the actions of the cognizant technical officers can affect the opportunity of small business to participate equitably; therefore, each cognizant technical officer shall, during the formulation of activities which will require contractual implementation:

(a) Consult with SDB on the availability and capabilities of small business firms to permit making a tentative set-aside determination where appropriate; and

(b) Provide sufficient procurement lead time in the activity implementation schedule to allow potential small business participation.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996]

719.271-6 Small business screening procedure.

(a) *General.* All USAID/Washington proposed contract actions in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold

shall be screened by SDB, with the exception of:

(1) Class set-asides and those unilaterally set-aside by contracting officers (719.271-3(f));

(2) Those where the contracting officer certifies in writing that the public exigency will not permit the delay incident to screening (719.271-7(b));

(3) "Institution building" contracts (contracts for development of a counterpart capability in the host country) with educational or nonprofit institutions; or collaborative assistance contracts pursuant to AIDAR 715.370-2.

(4) Those involving the payment of tuition and fees for participant training at academic institutions; and

(5) Personal services contract requirements (see 719.270).

(b) *Preparation of Form USAID 1410-14 (the Small Business/Minority Business Enterprise Procurement Review Form).* (1) The contracting officer shall prepare the subject form in an original and 3 copies and forward the original and 2 copies to SDB within one working day of receipt by the contracting activity of a procurement requisition.

(2) The contracting officer will attach to his/her transmittal a complete copy of the procurement request and a copy of the recommended source list as furnished by the technical office and supplemented by him/her.

(3) The contracting officer shall complete blocks 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10 (when appropriate) prior to submittal to SDB.

(c) *Screening of Form USAID 1410-14 by SDB.* (1) SDB will screen the contracting officer's recommendations on set-aside potential, small business subcontracting opportunities, and section 8(a) subcontracting, and furnish him/her with either a written concurrence in his/her recommendations or written counter-recommendations on the original and duplicate copy within five working days from receipt of the form from the contracting officer.

(2) SDB will complete Blocks 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 (when appropriate) prior to returning the screened form to the contracting officer.

(d) *Concurrence or rejection procedure.* (1) The contracting officer shall complete Block 13 upon receipt of the original and duplicate copy of the screened form from SDB.